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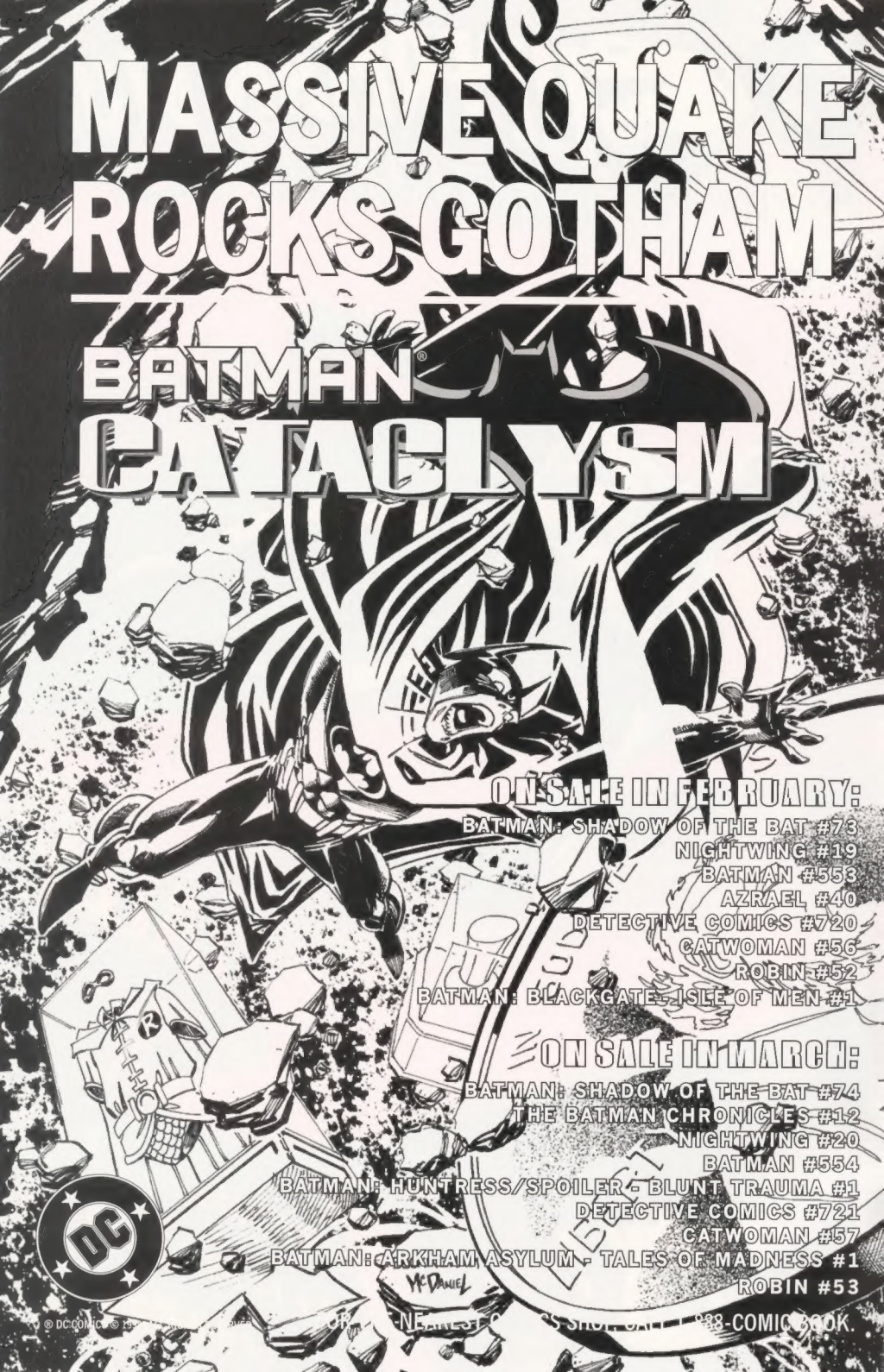
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DEVIL MAY CARE:

A THESIS ON THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGIST'S ROLE

BY AMY IWATA

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SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

In the 1920s, Erwin Schrödinger described a universe of infinite possibility with a single experiment in Quantum Theory.
Until observed, a cat locked in a box with radioactive material was as likely to be alive as not, existing in a "Superposition of States."
Schrödinger himself did not believe the cat was simultaneously alive and dead, but was he wrong? Could we all be faced with this duality of existence? Does the universe split every time we make a choice?
Can one person live the lives of two?

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Freud's Theory of the Even Suspension of Attention not only supports this, but demands it in the psychiatric profession.
YOU REALIZE WHAT WE HAVE TO DO, DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU?
WE NEED TO FIND EMIL HAMILTON. HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT HELP FIX THIS.
HAM? WE NEED TO GET BACK TO LOIS. SHE NEEDS TO BE REASSURED THAT THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT.
LOIS IS FINE. RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE CYBORG'S ENERGY DISPERSION DEVICE AND MERGE OUR PHYSICAL FORMS!
SINCE I STILL HAVE SUSPICIONS ABOUT BURTON THOMPSON'S PART AS S.T.A.R. LABS' DIRECTOR, HAMILTON'S THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE!
I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING!
EVER SINCE GAINING THESE ENERGY ABILITIES, THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE HAS BEEN A LOSING ONE.
FINALLY THERE'S A CHANCE OF OVERCOMING THE ODDS, AND YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS?
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE--

--IT'S OBVIOUSLY A MISTAKE THAT YOU WERE EVEN CREATED--
I MIGHT SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOU.
SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY THE WORLD MIGHT BE BETTER OFF WITH NO SUPERMAN THAN ONE WHO CAN'T STOP BULLETS--
--BUT WHY DON'T YOU ASK HAM HIS OPINION? I'M GOING HOME.
WAIT! WE NEED A PLAN! WE NEED TO--
;sigh; WE NEED TO BE OF ONE MIND.
Freud's model of the active listener, by its very definition, is a dichotomy, a way of looking forward through the documenting of history.
The competent therapist is at once navigator and passenger, able to lead, but cautious to do so.
But a body in flux is perhaps the only path to safety in the face of psychopathy.
IT'S TOUGH SPENDING ALL DAY IN PSYCH CLASS, TALKING THEORY WHEN MY REAL WORK IS AT HOME.
I'M SITTING ON A BREAKTHROUGH--A GOLDMINE TO THE PSYCHIATRIC PROFESSION--BUT IT'S GOT TO STAY SECRET.
FOR NOW.

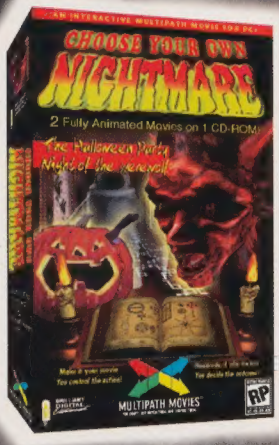
NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET ANYONE STEAL THIS FROM ME. OTHER STUDENTS'VE BEEN BURNED BEFORE.
SOON AS I PUBLISH, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
BESIDES, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT I'M DOING IS LEGAL. NOT EXACTLY.
YEAH, RIGHT. I AM TOTALLY OUTSIDE THE LAW AND I KNOW IT.
DOCTOR? DR. BRAZIL? IT'S AMY. I HAVE THE MATERIAL FROM THE LAB...
AND YET... IT'S STILL ABOUT REHABILITATION. IF I'M RIGHT, MY WORK WITH BRAZIL WILL POINT TO A COMPLETE RE-EVALUATION OF CRIMINAL INSANITY.
I HATE FEELING LIKE A SNEAK, BUT THE CIR-CUMSTANCES ARE SO--
--OHMYGOD.
WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

Your Worst Nightmare Is About To Come True...

AGAIN...

AND AGAIN...

AND AGAIN...



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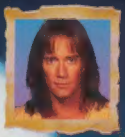

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DIRECTED BY LYNNE NAYLOR
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UNIVERSAL

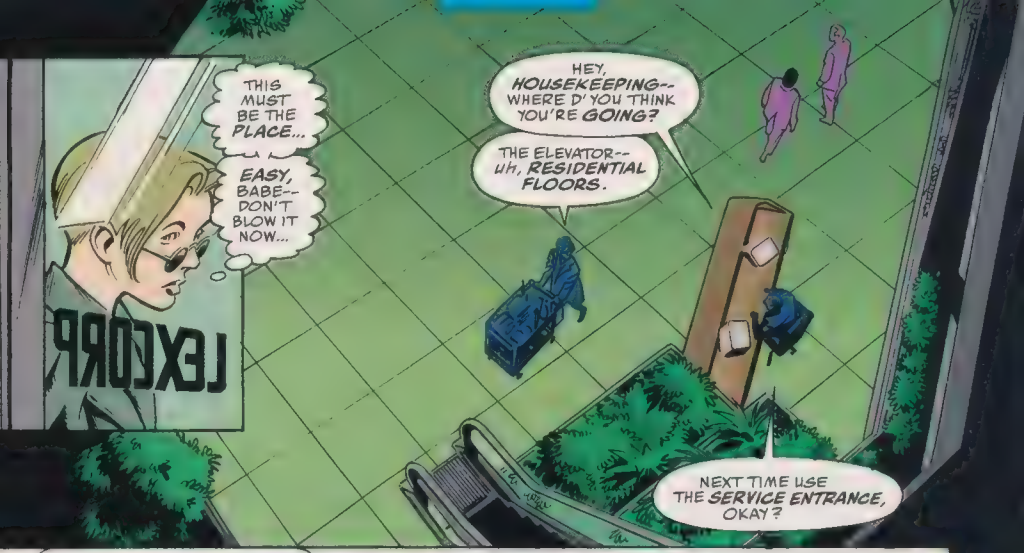
COMING TO VIDEO JANUARY 1998!

DR. BRAZIL! YOU --YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT THERE! SOMEONE MIGHT SEE--
--I MEAN, WHY ARE YOU ON MY ROOF?
THESE CREATURES WERE FIGHTING OVER FOOD, UNTIL I SHOWED THEM THERE WAS ENOUGH FOR ALL.
AND AMY, THIS IS THE FACE OF KIRICHITAN, NOT DR. NOAH BRAZIL.
THOUGH I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE AN ANIMAL HURT, FOR ANY REASON. THAT'S A PART OF MY PAST I'LL NEVER RELEASE.
IN FACT, THAT MAY BE THE ONLY PART WORTH PRESERVING.
I HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR WHICH I MUST ATONE, AMY...
LET'S--LET'S TALK ABOUT IT INSIDE, UH, KIRICHITAN. WE HAVE SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
I HAVE WHAT YOU ASKED FOR FROM THE LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY...
EXCELLENT! LET ME GET TO WORK!
I KNOW YOU ARE AS EAGER AS I--
NO, CHILDREN. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PATHS TO FOLLOW. OFF YOU GO!
5

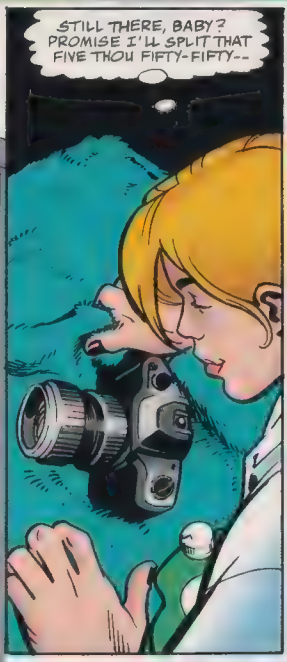
HOW DID YOU MANAGE THAT TRICK? WITH THE CATS, I MEAN?
NO TRICK, AMY. I SIMPLY TREAT ANIMALS WITH THE RESPECT THEY ARE DUE.
A RESPECT MORE PEOPLE WOULD DO WELL TO EMULATE.
OF COURSE, ONE MAN'S PASSION IS ANOTHER'S OBSESSION. DR. NOAH BRAZIL, ECOBIOLOGIST, GRANTED A NOBEL PRIZE --AND FOR WHAT?
HIS DARK SECRET WAS EDEN-- A BIODOME CREATED TO SURVIVE A BIOCHEMICAL ATTACK HE PLANNED FOR ALL LIFE OUTSIDE HER FRAGILE SHELL.
THANKFULLY, SUPERMAN AND METROPOLIS'S SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT STOPPED HIM. *
* SEE METROPOLIS S.C.U. MINISERIES FOR THE WHOLE STORY.
With beguiling ease, a sociopath may trade one behavioral token for another, moving effortlessly from charmer to churl as circumstances demand.
Is it a mask of order, belying a chaotic visage underneath, or is it a manifestation of a basic desire we all share--a need for acceptance?
IN THE END, BRAZIL WAS THOUGHT DEAD-- HIS FINAL DECEPTION, MADE CONVINCING BY AN ARTIFICIALLY SLOWED METABOLISM.
WHEN HE AWOKE, HE SIMPLY WALKED AWAY FROM THE MORGUE, THOUGH HIS MIND WAS...
...CLOUDED ... BY THE VERY CHEMICALS HE SOUGHT TO USE ON THE REST OF EARTH'S POPULATION.
HE WANDERED, WITHOUT HOME OR PURPOSE, A SHADOW OF A MAN--

--UNTIL I FOUND YOU AND WE HELPED EACH OTHER.
If the therapist chooses to observe the shifting personality at arm's length, the waves of pathology pass, allowing the patient's true character to emerge.
THE AMBITION TO BE A HERO HAS HELPED HONE YOUR GREAT INTELLECT. CREATING THE COSTUME HAS BEEN REAL POSITIVE WORK.
YES...
YOU'RE READY TO BE A HEROIC FORCE, NOT ONE OF SINGLE-MINDED DESTRUCTION.
YOU NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL LATITUDE TO DEVELOP, AND I'VE GIVEN YOU HAVEN TO DO SO.
OH YES, AMY, MY DEAR. EVERYTHING I AM I OWE TO YOU. EVEN THE NAME KIRICHITAN IS YOUR INSPIRATION.
WELL... YOU'VE REALIZED YOUR POTENTIAL--
--AND YOU NEED TO SHOW THE WORLD IT'S NO HARD FEELINGS. I THINK YOU NEED TO SHOW SUPERMAN.
FASCINATING..
... HOW GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE, AMY.

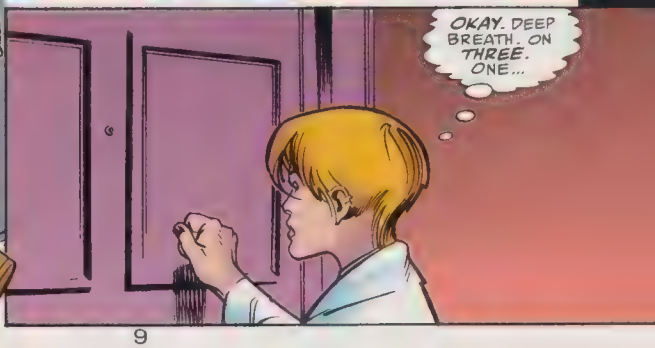
THRAK
KOOM!
PROFESSOR HAMILTON?
EMIL? ARE YOU HERE?
MAYBE IN THE NEXT ROOM--
--hmm? WHAT'S THIS?
SPTZ
TZPIZ
HEL;tzz;O? HELLO? CAN YOU SE;zzt;ME?
;ahem; YOU'VE REACHED THE LABORATORY OF EMIL HAMILTON.
YES, DEAR. AS SOON AS I CHECK ON KANDOR AND SHUT THIS;kzzt;
KANDOR! MAXIMA AND OBSESSION'S FIGHT IN THE FORTRESS NARROWLY MISSED DESTROYING IT--
--BUT I DIDN'T THINK TO INSPECT EMIL'S MONITORING DEVICE.
EVERYTHING SEEMS FUNCTIONAL, THOUGH.
MILDRED AND I ARE ON VACATION, BUT FEEL FREE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERA INSTALLED.
COMING, EMIL?
MAYBE... SOMEONE'S OUT THERE, LOOKING IN ON US... MAKING SURE IT ALL TURNS OUT OKAY.
I MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY I HAVE THESE POWERS--A DOUBLE--AND MAYBE I'M NOT MEANT TO.
COULD BE RED WAS RIGHT--THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE TO TURN RIGHT NOW--


THIS MUST BE THE PLACE...
EASY, BABE-- DON'T BLOW IT NOW...
HEY, HOUSEKEEPING-- WHERE D' YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
THE ELEVATOR-- UH, RESIDENTIAL FLOORS.
NEXT TIME USE THE SERVICE ENTRANCE, OKAY?

STUPID, CARRIE, STUPID. MAKE ANY MORE BRILLIANT MOVES, AND THE LUTHOR KID IS GONNA STAY A MYSTERY.
THAT IS, UNTIL SOME OTHER PHOTOGRAPHER SCOOPS UP THE WAD THE DAILY PLANET'S OFFERING.


STILL THERE, BABY? PROMISE I'LL SPLIT THAT FIVE THOU FIFTY-FIFTY--

--AS SOON AS WE GET A ROLL OR TWO OF THE BUNDLE OF JOY. DON'T KNOW WHY THE PLANET WANTS BABY PICS, BUT I'M GAME. GOTTA BE COOL, THOUGH--
--IF ONLY HALF OF WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT LUTHOR IS TRUE, HE COULD EXECUTE ME ON THE SPOT.
IF HE CATCHES ME.


OKAY. DEEP BREATH. ON THREE. ONE...

TAKE LENA TO THE NURSERY, MISS SCOTT, AND ENSURE THE MONITOR IS FUNCTIONING WHEN YOU PUT HER DOWN.
AFTER THAT, YOU MAY GO FOR THE DAY.
CERTAINLY, MR. LUTHOR.
RING! RING!
YES?
MR. LUTHOR? THIS IS DR. DUFFY AT THE LAZARUS CLINIC--
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY WIFE? I SWEAR, IF THE CONTESSA HAS COME TO HARM--!
uh, NO SIR, NOT QUITE--
--BUT THERE'S BEEN A FIRE--
YOU IDIOT!
--SOME BODIES ARE UNIDENTIFIABLE AT PRESENT, OTHERS UNACCOUNTED FOR--
COUNT EVERY BODY! NO ONE LEAVES UNTIL I ARRIVE! LISTEN CAREFULLY, DOCTOR--
--MY WIFE MUST BE FOUND!
--THREE?
THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT...
10

THE GALAXY IS FAR, FAR AWAY.
THE FIGHTING IS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

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THIRTEEN NEW SONGS

PRODUCED BY BOB ROCK WITH HETFIELD & ULRICH

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THIS CAN'T BE EASY FOR LOIS. THE PRESSURE OF BEING MARRIED TO SUPERMAN IS ONE THING--
--BUT A MATCHED SET? EVEN LOIS LANE ISN'T THAT TOUGH.
LOIS, WE HAVE TO TALK.
BUT WE JUST TALKED, DIDN'T WE?
hmm? OH, HIM.
I COULD USE A COFFEE. OR A SLEDGEHAMMER.
CLARK-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS LIKE FOR YOU-- I CAN'T--
-- BUT FOR ME, IT'S INSANITY.
I'M TRYING TO REMEDY IT. REALLY. BUT IT'S LIKE--
--FIGHTING WITH YOURSELF? FINE. BUT CONSIDER THE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED. DO YOUR FOLKS KNOW?
THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME. HE HASN'T--
25¢ CUP
HE? OH, THIS IS WEIRDER THAN I THOUGHT!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! JUST WHEN I WAS GETTING USED TO--
--OWW!
CLARK!
:sigh: ONCE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE--
BUT IT HAS. AND WE'LL GET THROUGH IT. I LOVE YOU. I SWEAR.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THIS IS INCREDIBLE. YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO BURY THE HATCHET WITH SUPERMAN?
HARDLY. BUT I'LL BURY HIM.
WHAT? YOU...
...KIRICHITAN, LISTEN. YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKTHROUGH. IF YOU WANT TO BE HEALED, YOU'LL NOT ONLY HELP YOURSELF, BUT OTHERS--
FOOL.
ALL HUMANITY IS BENEATH MY GAZE.
SMACK!
I DID TRY TO HELP, ONCE.
YET DESPITE MY WARNINGS, THEY CONTINUE TO DESPOIL THE EARTH. NO ANIMAL IS SAFE WHILE THIS HUMAN POPULATION SURVIVES
SUPERMAN AND MAGGIE SAWYER HANDED NATURE A DEATH SENTENCE WHEN THEY STOPPED ME BEFORE...
...AND THEY WILL SUFFER FOR THEIR IGNORANCE.

THE REST OF YOU WILL DIE LESS PAINFULLY.
:unhh!:
YOU... YOU USED ME--? THIS WAS A RUSE-- A PLOY TO SEEK REVENGE?
DEAR AMY, WE ARE INDEED KINDRED, FOR THAT REASON ALONE, YOUR LIFE IS SPARED FOR NOW.
BUT DO NOT ACT THE VICTIM. WAS I NOT YOUR PSYCHO-LOGICAL PLAYTHING? YOUR LIVING EXPERIMENT? HOW NOBLE--
--AND HOW MISGUIDED.
KRAASH!
"COME ON IN, SCORN. DADDY'S PROBABLY AT WORK. JUST DON'T BUST UP THE DOOR FRAME."

COOL OF JIMMY TO DROP US AT HOME, huh?
JIMMY ...SCORN'S PAL.
TOTALLY. HE GAVE US A LIFT WHEN HE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN METROPOLIS, I MEAN, WITH INTER-GANG AFTER HIS--
ASHBURY.
DADDY?
SURPRISED I'M HOME? MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M TOO SICK WITH WORRY WONDERING WHERE MY DAUGHTER IS?
HER FRIENDS DON'T KNOW! HER TEACHERS DON'T--
IT JUST SO HAPPENS I WAS SAVING SCORN'S LIFE! ISN'T THAT MORE IMPORTANT THAN SCHOOL?
THIS MONSTER DOESN'T NEED THE HELP OF A TEENAGE GIRL!
DADDY, YOU'RE JUST SO...
...STUPID!
YOU'RE GROUNDED, MISS!
HONK! HONK!
BEEP! BEEEEP!
--WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT NOISE?!
AND YOU, YOU... FREAK! THIS IS YOUR FAULT! STAY AWAY FROM ASHBURY!
YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS BEFORE I CALL THE S.C.U. --
GRRRR...
HONK! BEEP! HONK!

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HONK!
HONNNK!
HONK!
BEEEP!
HONK!
WHO'S THE $%%#!! BLOCKIN' THE ROAD?
HOONNNK!
GET OFF THE STREET, YOU IDIOT!
BEEEP!
HEY, I GOT FIFTEEN PIZZAS GETTIN' COLD HERE!
HONK!
BEEP!
MOVE IT! MOVE IT!
HONK!
HARNNK!
BEEP, BEEEP!
HARNK!
WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
SOME CHUCKLEHEAD THINKS BESSOLO BOULEVARD'S A YOGA CLASS!
THRAK-KOOM!
LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S--

SUPERMAN. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU AND YOUR... MENAGERIE HAVE TO MOVE.
NOW.
WRONG BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN BEGUN, SUPERMAN. YOU DO KNOW ME, AS I, DESPITE YOUR ALTERED APPEARANCE, KNOW YOU.
THESE CREATURES ARE NOT MINE. NO HUMAN CAN OWN AN ANIMAL. I'VE LIBERATED THEM FROM CENTENNIAL PARK'S SO-CALLED "PETTING ZOO."
A PRISON, MORE LIKE, WHERE THEY CAN BE TEASED, TORTURED, CAGED. THEY FOLLOW ME OUT OF TRUST, NOT FEAR.
I'M FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS AS MUCH AS ANYONE, MISTER, BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO DO IT.
THERE ARE CHANNELS TO GO THROUGH... YOU'RE PUTTING THEM IN DANGER--
ONLY MANKIND IS IN DANGER NOW. EARTH'S OTHER CREATIONS WILL COME TO NO HARM.
FREEING THESE ANIMALS IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP. WHEN MY PROJECT IS COMPLETE, EDEN WILL BE THE ONLY REFUGE FROM THE CHAMGHAGA...
...DR. NOAH BRAZIL...

SUPERMAN! S.C.U. 'S GOT YOU COVERED!
CHID!! YOU AND BEEPLER ROUND UP THESE--
NO, MAGGIE! STAY BACK! IT'S--
QUIET, SUPERMAN! INSPECTOR SAWYER WILL REALIZE SOON ENOUGH!
YEE-AGH!
CHIZZAT!
THOUGH TOO LATE TO SAVE HER.
GO ON, INSPECTOR! YOUR WEAPONS CANNOT INJURE ME. THIS ARMOR ABSORBS KINETIC ENERGY. IT WON'T BE LIKE LAST TIME.
LAST--? WHO ARE YOU, FELLA?
CHK
CHK
CHK
MAGGIE... IT'S NOAH BRAZIL... NOT ; uhn ; DEAD.
YOU KNOW HOW ; uhh ; DANGEROUS HE IS... DO WHAT YOU... HAVE TO...
THIS GUY WAS READY TO WIPE OUT THE WHOLE EARTH A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, MAGS. WHAT DO WE DO?
...
SET TOASTMASTERS ON FULL ASSAULT. WE'LL OVERLOAD HIM.

TRY IT, INSPECTOR!
AFTER I SPLIT SUPERMAN IN TWO, I'M COMING FOR YOU!
I... WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THE EXPERIENCE...
WOUND... ALMOST HEALED... CONCENTRATE A FEW MORE MINUTES...
INSPECTOR! AIM FOR THE PAVEMENT! WE'LL BURY HIM!
NO, MENUEZ. WE'LL HIT HIM WHERE IT HURTS MOST.
YOU'VE GOT THREE SECONDS TO PUT DOWN THE SWORD, BRAZIL.
THREE...

WHAT DECEIT! YOU WOULDN'T!
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, NO.
I DEAL WITH WACKOS OF ALL STRIPES, BRAZIL. BUT EVEN THE WORST OF THEM AREN'T USUALLY BENT ON GENOCIDE.
I'M WILLING TO MAKE THIS SACRIFICE IF IT SAVES THE PLANET.
I...
ZCH-
-KT!
YOU'RE FINISHED, BRAZIL! AND YOU'LL PAY FOR THE CRIMES YOU'VE COMMITTED!
MY SWORD!
LET GO, BRAZIL! IT'S OVER!
I AM NOT--
KKCHAZZT!

--NOAH--
KZZAKTTZZZZ!
--NO--
NO! STOP! STOP RUNNING!
STOP!!
--THEY MUST SEE YOU AS YOU REALLY ARE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CHEATED DEATH, BUT YOUR MANIA NEARLY DESTROYED EVERY ONE OF THESE ANIMALS.
YOU HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, DR. NOAH BRAZIL--
THEY'RE NOT LISTENING, DOCTOR--
KZZATZZ
--AND THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE CERTAIN YOU DO.

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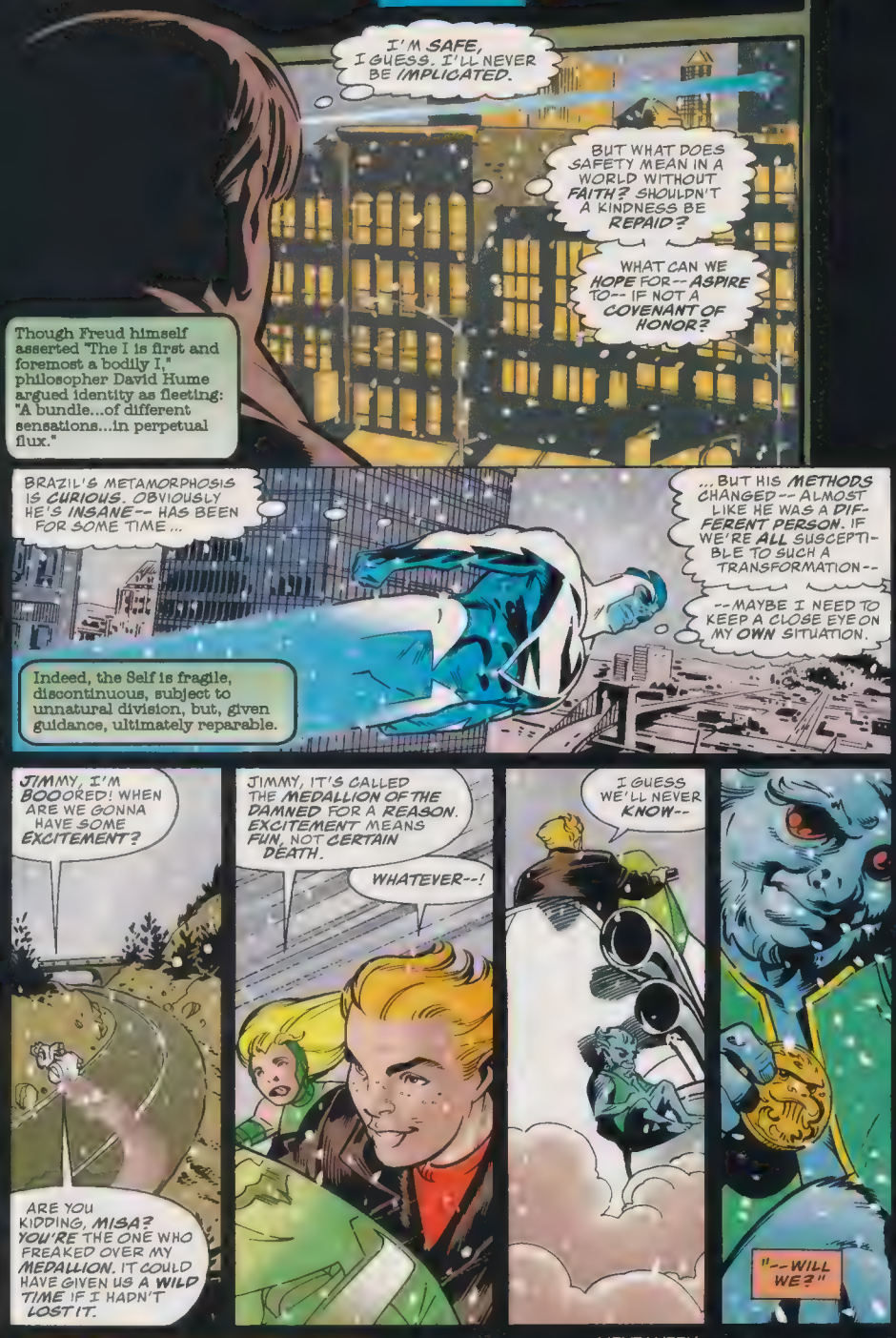
THIS'LL HELP YOU SLEEP, BUDDY.
WHA-- NO!! RELEASE ME AT ONCE!
S'OKAY, PAL. YOU'RE COMING WITH US.
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I AM A GENIUS! A HERO!
MY NAME IS KIRICHITAN!
LIVE
6:4
THE DAY'S EVENTS WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE EFFORTS OF SUPERMAN AND THE S.C.U. IN APPREHENDING WHAT SOME ARE CALLING A WELL-INTENTIONED MADMAN...
...IN THE SUICIDE SLUM AREA, ANOTHER SUPERMAN WAS SEEN WITH ONE-TIME VILLAIN SCORN BATTLING ALIEN ROBOTS AND DINOSAURS...
IS THAT IT?
SIX YEARS OF WORK, AND IT ALL TURNS OUT WRONG.
MAYBE IT WAS JUST BRAZIL. MAYBE HE'S THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.
OR MAYBE I BELIEVED IN HIM TOO MUCH. I WASN'T NEUTRAL ENOUGH. NOT OBJECTIVE ENOUGH.
BUT... WHAT ARE WE WITHOUT TRUST?
WAS HE RIGHT? ARE HUMANS NOT FIT TO RUN THE PLANET?


I'M SAFE, I GUESS. I'LL NEVER BE IMPLICATED.
BUT WHAT DOES SAFETY MEAN IN A WORLD WITHOUT FAITH? SHOULDN'T A KINDNESS BE REPAID?
WHAT CAN WE HOPE FOR -- ASPIRE TO -- IF NOT A COVENANT OF HONOR?
Though Freud himself asserted "The I is first and foremost a bodily I," philosopher David Hume argued identity as fleeting: "A bundle...of different sensations...in perpetual flux."
BRAZIL'S METAMORPHOSIS IS CURIOUS. OBVIOUSLY HE'S INSANE -- HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME...
...BUT HIS METHODS CHANGED -- ALMOST LIKE HE WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON. IF WE'RE ALL SUSCEPTIBLE TO SUCH A TRANSFORMATION --
--MAYBE I NEED TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON MY OWN SITUATION.
Indeed, the Self is fragile, discontinuous, subject to unnatural division, but, given guidance, ultimately reparable.
JIMMY, I'M BOOORED! WHEN ARE WE GONNA HAVE SOME EXCITEMENT?
ARE YOU KIDDING, MISA? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FREAKED OVER MY MEDALLION. IT COULD HAVE GIVEN US A WILD TIME IF I HADN'T LOST IT.
JIMMY, IT'S CALLED THE MEDALLION OF THE DAMNED FOR A REASON. EXCITEMENT MEANS FUN, NOT CERTAIN DEATH.
WHATEVER--!
I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW--
"--WILL WE?"

NEXT WEEK:
TIME GOES HAYWIRE IN **MAN OF STEEL #77.**

NEXT MONTH:
THE RETURN OF INKLING!
(unless time's still gone haywire...)

RE: ACTION

DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY
10019

ACTION COMICS #737

Dear Super-Team:

ACTION COMICS #737 was a good issue, but I have two questions about the trial:

1) What about Dr. Kelly? If they had gotten her out of jail to testify, she could have told them that Luthor was lying and that he was the clone.

2) What about all of that evidence that they had that Luthor was behind the Revenge Squads? I know he didn't do it, but come on! They had a thumb scanner that would allow him entrance into the building set to his prints! That alone could have put him in jail.

By the way, I like the whole Jimmy versus Intergang subplot. I can't wait to see what happens.

CHARLES STEVENS
(STEVENJ4@AIRMAIL.NET)
FAIRFIELD, TX

Thanks, Charles. Regarding your questions, Dr. Kelly would never testify against Lex; she didn't like his methods, but she loved him and would never turn him in. Besides, she also helped Lex with the whole clone process. As for that Revenge Squad stuff, there wasn't really enough evidence to convict, and he had worse charges brought against him, which he beat anyway.

Dear Super-Team:

First off, I must apologize for a letter I sent to you regarding Superman's power changes a while back. Like a lot of people, I thought this was just a cheap attempt at increasing your sales figures with a quick-fix solution, but I now see that a lot of thought has been put into this direction. I also like the way you are expanding on most of Supes's supporting characters; it provides a very interesting story.

On the inside panel of ACTION #737, it says that Mark Waid was the writer, yet on the cover Roger Stern's name is printed. Why is that? Unlike a lot of the artists who do a better take on the villains than on Superman himself, I felt that Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier did an excellent job this issue; a really great story all around. Keep this up and you'll have a lot of new readers flocking in.

At first, the stories concerning the power changes were of average caliber, but they have recently been improving every week. Now I'm thinking, hey, maybe these new power changes aren't such a bad thing for some entertaining storylines, so take your time and go wild.

Even you must agree, though, that most people would rather see Superman with his original powers and, say, maybe a nineties-looking costume (with the cape) for the future. You're going to have to come up with something really spectacular to top the original one, because only the best will do for a great character like this.

This is probably one of the few series that actually conveys a positive message to its readers, and I hope you never give that up for a darker, unforgiving Superman.

STEWART NOY
(STEWART@KINGSLEY.CO.ZA)
SOUTH AFRICA

Not to worry, Stewart—we won't. And don't apologize for your previous letter—you just wanted to make sure we preserved Superman's character, and now that you've seen we have, we're glad you're enjoying what we're doing. We hope our recent addition in red has only enhanced your enjoyment!

By the by, Roger and Mark came up with this story for ACTION #737, though we inadvertently left Mr. Waid's name off the cover. Sorry, Mark...er, um, Luthor did it!

Hey, Super-People:

ACTION #737 was great! Is it a coincidence that Lex Luthor and Intergang "operative" Noose look alike or not?

Keep bringing the great stories, and I'll keep buying! Up, up and away!!

ANDREW MAGNESS
(AMAGNESS@IX.NETCOM.COM)
NO ADDRESS AVAILABLE

Well, we'll be hanged! They do look a wee bit similar, don't they? Lex is probably glad he didn't show up at the trial, cuz y'know, no Noose is good Noose...

**Ahem* Sorry. Couldn't resist.*

Dear DC:

I don't care what everyone else thinks—I really, really, *really* like the new Superman! He's not as cool as the old one, but he's still awesome! With the new one, it's a little harder to figure out just who Superman really is.

Anyway, I just picked up ACTION #737. It was the greatest! Even though Jimmy is a

reporter, he shouldn't be goin' around trying to find out who Superman is. All he should worry about is that Superman is there!

OK, now I have a few questions:

1) Who was the guy who lifted Jimmy's bed?

2) Who was almost Jimmy's cellmate?

3) Does he have to pay for Collin Thornton's shirt that he ripped?

4) Are Lois and Clark ever going to have kids?

5) If Kryptonite only used to hurt Superman, how did it poison Lex?

Well, I guess that's it. Again, great issue.

RYAN WIDDEKIND
HAVRE, MT

Thanks, Ryan. In answer to your questions:

1) Roughhouse was the bed-shaker. He also short-sheets 'em—while the victim's in the bed!

2) Jimmy's almost-roomie was just a guy associated with an ***inter****esting* ***gang*** *of people. That's all.*

3) Probably not. Jimmy kinda went into hiding for awhile after that.

4) Hey, they just got married! Let 'em settle down a bit before we start up this controversial topic!

5) Kryptonite was deadly to Superman before his DNA changed recently. In fact, it's lethal to one and all of us, though Kryptonians are affected by the stuff much more quickly than humans. Lex wore a Kryptonite ring for a long time, and the prolonged exposure resulted in his losing his hand, then giving him cancer.

Dear People:

This time you've definitely gone *too far.* I admit, if *anybody* was gonna pull off a stunt like this, Roger Stern was the man to do it, but it just rubs me the wrong way to see Luthor *walk* like he did here.

This better not be the *end* of it!

HENRY R. KUJAWA
CAMDEN, NJ

Of course it's not the end, Henry! Lex started up his new life as a free man and took aim at the JLA right away! Strangely enough, some of you out there are rather glad he got off so easily...

Dear Re:Action:

I just finished reading ACTION COMICS #737, and I must say that I am overjoyed. Mark Waid writing ACTION—cool. Too bad he can't do a Superman book on a monthly basis (hint-hint).

Lex Luthor is a free man. Yes! Fight the power, Lexy! Stick it to the Man! I must admit, the whole clone defense came from left field. How can the D.A. plan to combat this? Lex is the baddest villain, hands down.

The clincher was when he told Drysdale the truth without the slightest bit of emotion or self-preservation. Telling a lawyer everything is not a smart move, but heck, Lex is one of those people who have nothing to fear. And one more thing: that last remark about Lex taking down the JLA was just awesome.

One unrelated question: Why are the animated Superman figures so hard to find?

LESTER ROMERO, JR.
WHEATON, MD

Well, they ***are*** *animated figures, so they're probably constantly on the move... Seriously, they're probably out in full force now, with the new season having started.*

As for Lex telling his lawyer everything, you weren't the only one who wondered about that...

Dear Super-People (re ACTION COMICS #737):

I can chalk up the procedural shortcuts in Lex Luthor's trial to dramatic license. Real trials are much too boring for fully accurate treatment. But you made one real howler after the trial.

Luthor's confession of past crimes to his duped lawyer, Drysdale, is indeed covered under the attorney-client privilege. To the extent, however, that his threat to "topple the Justice League" was serious, it communicated an intention to commit *future* crimes, which is *not* privileged.

How many lawyers wrote to point that out?

CLEM COLUCCI
DEUTSCH AND FREY, LLP
NEW YORK, NY

Um, actually, none, Mr. Colucci—all previous mouthpieces have been, shall we say, ***dealt*** *with.*

But hey, let's not argue semantics, shall we? Our client, Mr. L., was under considerable duress at the time, what with Superman's constant harassment of him, so threatening to topple the JLA (of which Superman is a member) really didn't imply "intent," but more of a desire to see justice done for our man Lex. In fact, perhaps if we offer you, say, a little somethin' in your mailbox to the tune of this month's Baldy award, mebbe you'll see to our way of thinkin' and just drop the allegations you're making...

—Mike McAvennie

To paraphrase Art Carney: "I doesn't have to practice law—I ***know*** *it!"*

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

NEXT WEEK: Pick your favorite color Superman—Red or Blue—in MAN OF STEEL #77! Louise Simonson, Paul Ryan and Dennis Janke give you two titanic tales to choose from in seven days!

IN TWO WEEKS: Two weeks, two Supermen, two stories, all in SUPERMAN #133. It's also Take Two of Red and Blue solo action, both brought to you by Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz, Joe Rubinstein, Tom Grummett and Denis Rodier.

IN THREE WEEKS: Things don't look good in any color for Red or Blue in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #556, as the Millennium Guard attacks Red, while Blue confronts the awesome threat of Gargox! Karl Kesel, Tom Grummett, Denis Rodier, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein two-time the Men Beyond Tomorrow in twenty-one days!

IN FOUR WEEKS: It's a case of dual danger in ACTION #743, as Red and Blue can't resolve their problems alone or together! Stuart Immonen and José Marzan, Jr. enlist the aid of Greg Land in twenty-eight days in hopes that he can help!

This month's cover is Part One of a two-part image, to be continued on the cover of MAN OF STEEL #77! This portion was brought to you by Stuart Immonen, José Marzan, Jr. and Patrick Martin, and can be enjoyed on its own!

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Sounds easy.

It may just kill them.

BABYLON 5: IN VALEN'S NAME

WRITTEN BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI AND PETER DAVID · ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL COLLINS AND DAVID ROACH · PAINTED COVERS BY RAFAEL KAYANAN

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